

Household Pulse Survey User Notes

Phase 3.5

Date: June 22, 2022

[Release Note on Phase 3.5 Collection of the Household Pulse Survey](#)

On June 1, 2022, the Household Pulse Survey (HPS) entered Phase 3.5 data collection. There have been multiple changes to the questionnaire, including the addition of new questions, the adjustment of existing questions, and the removal of certain survey items from earlier collection periods (see Release Note on New Content and Updated Questionnaire below).

Phase 3.5 is currently scheduled to collect data into August 2022 and will continue the two-weeks on, two-weeks off collection and dissemination approach that began with Phase 3.3 of the survey. This latest phase of the survey is scheduled to have three distinct collection cycles and data releases.

Week 46: June 1 – June 13, 2022 (data released on June 22, 2022)

Week 47: June 29 – July 11, 2022 (data released July 20, 2022)

Week 48: July 25 – August 8, 2022 (data released August 17, 2022)

Users can access the Phase 3.5 questionnaire on the [Measuring Household Experiences during the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#) website, and all previous questionnaires from the survey are available on the [Technical Documentation](#) webpage.

[Release Note on New Content and Updated Questionnaire](#)

New Questions for Phase 3.5

Beginning with Week 46 (collection period June 1 – June 13, 2022), the Household Pulse Survey questionnaire changed to include the following new items:

- For respondents who have received a COVID-19 vaccine but who have not received a booster shot, a new question has been added asking why not (VAC4_B).

VAC4_B question wording: Which of the following, if any, are reasons that you have not received a COVID-19 booster dose? *Select all that apply.*

Response options:

- ☐ I am not yet eligible to receive a COVID-19 booster dose
- ☐ I plan to get a booster and am eligible, but haven't made an appointment or haven't had time to do it
- ☐ I don't believe a COVID-19 booster is necessary
- ☐ My doctor has not recommended it
- ☐ I already had COVID-19
- ☐ I am not required to get a COVID-19 booster (by my work or school)
- ☐ I experienced side effects from my previous dose(s) of the COVID-19 vaccine

- It's hard for me to get a COVID-19 booster dose because I do not have transportation or cannot get an appointment
 - Other (please specify) _____
- The survey has added a series of new questions asking about the vaccination status of children. Respondents are first asked if any of the children living in the household have received a COVID-19 vaccination (VAC5_A). If the answer is yes and depending on the ages of children in the household, they are then asked a series of questions about whether the children are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (VAC5_B1-B3) and whether they have received vaccination boosters (VAC5_C1-C3).

VAC5_A question wording: Have any of the children living in your household received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine? *Please respond "yes" if any of the children living in your household have received at least one dose, even if some of the children have not.*

Response options:

1. Yes
2. No - (Go to VAC6)
3. I don't know

VAC5_B1-B3 question wording: Are any of the children (*by age group*) years old fully vaccinated against COVID-19?

Response options:

- 1) Yes
- 2) No
- 3) I don't know

VAC5_C1-C3 question wording: Have any of the children (*by age group*) years old received a booster or additional doses of a COVID-19 vaccine?

Response options:

- 1) Yes
- 2) No
- 3) I don't know

- The survey has replaced the previous question asking about a prior COVID-19 diagnosis (VAC8) with two new items, one asking about testing positive or receiving a diagnosis (VAC8_B), and one asking about the timing of a positive test or diagnosis (VAC8_C)

VAC8_B question wording: Have you ever tested positive for COVID-19 (using a rapid point-of-care test, self-test, or laboratory test) or been told by a doctor or other health care provider that you have or had COVID-19?

Response options:

1. Yes
2. No

VAC8_C question wording: When did you test positive or were told you have or had COVID-19?

Response options:

- 1) Within the last four weeks
 - 2) More than four weeks ago
 - 3) Both
- The questionnaire includes two new questions about treatments for COVID-19. TREAT1_A asks about receiving two different treatments, and TREAT2_A asks about reasons for not receiving these treatments.

TREAT1_A question wording: The FDA has issued emergency use authorizations (EUAs) for a number of treatments for COVID-19 for people at high risk of severe disease. These include oral antiviral medications or pills that can be taken at home, and monoclonal antibody treatments that can be administered at a doctor's office or hospital. When you had COVID-19 in the past 4 weeks, did you receive an antiviral or monoclonal antibody treatment, such as a pill or IV infusion?

Response Options: Yes/No response options for two new variables (Oral antiviral medications and monoclonal antibody treatments)

TREAT2_A Question wording: Which of the following, if any, are reasons that you did not take antivirals or monoclonal antibodies? Select all that apply.

Response options:

- I wasn't very sick/I had no symptoms
 - I didn't think I needed a treatment
 - I am not a member of a high-risk group
 - My healthcare provider did not offer or recommend them
 - I was concerned about possible side effects of these treatments
 - I was concerned about cost
 - I didn't think these treatments were effective
 - It was hard for me or my healthcare provider to get them
 - I hadn't heard of them
 - Other (please specify)
- The survey also now includes three new questions about treatments for COVID-19 symptoms (PASC1, PASC2, and PASC3).

PASC1 question wording: Question wording: How would you describe your coronavirus symptoms when they were at their worst?

Response Options:

- 1) I had no symptoms
- 2) I had mild symptoms
- 3) I had moderate symptoms
- 4) I had severe symptoms

PASC2 question wording: Did you have any symptoms lasting 3 months or longer that you did not have prior to having coronavirus or COVID-19? *Long term symptoms may include: Tiredness or fatigue, difficulty thinking, concentrating, forgetfulness, or memory problems (sometimes referred to as "brain fog", difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, Joint or muscle pain, Fast-beating or pounding heart (also known as heart palpitations), Chest pain, Dizziness on standing, Depression, anxiety, or mood changes.*

Response options:

- 1) Yes
- 2) No

PASC3 question wording: Do you have symptoms now?

Response options:

- 1) Yes
- 2) No

- Two questions related to food security that were previously in the survey have returned to the questionnaire (Q28 and Q29).

Q28 question wording: During the last 7 days, how much money did you and your household spend on food at supermarkets, grocery stores, online, and other places you buy food to prepare and eat at home? Please include purchases made with SNAP or food stamps.

Enter amount _____

Q29 question wording: During the last 7 days, how much money did you and your household spend on prepared meals, including eating out, fast food, and carry out or delivered meals? Please include money spent in cafeterias at work or at school or on vending machines. Please do not include money you have already told us about in the previous question.

Enter amount _____

- The survey also includes a new item asking about the mental health of children (HLTH14).

HLTH14 question wording: Think about all of the children living in your household. IN THE PAST 4 WEEKS, did any of these children seem to *(check all that apply)*

Response options:

- ☐ Feel anxious or clingy?
- ☐ Feel very sad or depressed?

- Show changes in eating behaviors, such as eating more or less than normal, or became extremely picky?
 - Show changes in their ability to stay focused, such as becoming easily distracted?
 - Show unusual anger or outbursts?
 - Engage in problematic behaviors such as lying, cheating, stealing, or bullying
 - Behave in ways that they've previously outgrown, such as thumb sucking or wetting the bed?
 - Complain of physical pain with no medical issue such as stomach aches or pains?
 - None of the children in my household exhibited any of these behaviors
- The survey has also added two new items to the existing battery of disability questions, one asking about difficulty with self-care (DIS5) and another about difficulty communicating (DIS6).

DIS5 question wording: Do you have difficulty with self-care, such as washing all over or dressing?

Response options:

- 1) No - no difficulty
- 2) Yes - some difficulty
- 3) Yes - a lot of difficulty
- 4) Cannot do at all

DIS6 question wording: Using your usual language, do you have difficulty communicating, for example understanding or being understood?

Response options:

- 1) No - no difficulty
- 2) Yes - some difficulty
- 3) Yes - a lot of difficulty
- 4) Cannot do at all

- The survey also includes two new items about monthly rent payments, one asking the amount paid in rent (HSENEW1), and another asking if monthly rent has changed in the last year (HSENEW2)

HSENEW1 question wording: What is your current monthly rent?

HSENEW2 question wording: Has your monthly rent changed during the last 12 months? If so, by how much?

Response options:

- 1) My rent did not change.
- 2) My rent decreased.
- 3) My rent increased by <\$100.
- 4) My rent increased by \$100-\$249.
- 5) My rent increased by \$250-\$500.
- 6) My rent increased by more than \$500

Updated Questions for Phase 3.5

Additionally, adjusted questionnaire items include:

- The question about receiving a COVID-19 vaccine has been updated (VAC2).

Previous question wording: How many dose(s) of a COVID-19 vaccine have you received?

New question wording: Which of the following best describes your COVID-19 vaccine status (not including boosters)?

Additionally, the response options for this question have also changed.

Previous response options:

- 1) 1 vaccination
- 2) 2 vaccinations
- 3) 3 vaccinations
- 4) 4 or more vaccinations
- 5) Don't know

Updated response options:

- 1) I received one dose of a two-shot series like Moderna or Pfizer
- 2) I received 2 doses of a two-shot series or a single dose vaccine like Johnson & Johnson

- The previous question about receiving a COVID-19 vaccination booster (VAC2_BOOSTER) has been updated.

Previous question wording: Did you receive (or do you plan to receive) a COVID-19 vaccine booster?

Updated question wording: Have you received at least one COVID-19 vaccine booster?

Additionally, the response options for this question have also changed.

○ **Previous response options:**

- 1) Yes, I received a booster
- 2) Yes, I plan to receive a booster
- 3) No, I do not plan to receive a booster

Updated response options:

- 1) Yes
- 2) No

- The question asking about household income (INCOME) has been updated to reflect data year 2021 (previous version asked about 2020).

- The question about household members teleworking has also been updated and is no longer dependent on answers to a question that has been removed (SPN5):

Previous question wording: Have you or the people in your household who teleworked or worked from home done so for...?

Updated question wording: In the last 7 days, have you or any of the people in your household teleworked or worked from home?

- The question asking about how children in the household receive education has a new “Children were on summer break” response option.

Removed Questions for Phase 3.5

Finally, a number of questions have been removed for this latest phase of the survey:

- VAC2_BRAND (brand of COVID-19 vaccination received).
- VAC3 (previous question about receiving a COVID-19 vaccination).
- VAC4 (reason for not receiving a COVID-19 vaccine) has been replaced with VAC4_B (reason for not receiving a booster)
- VAC5 (question about the vaccination status of children in household) has been replaced by a battery of new survey items asking about vaccinations and children (VAC5_A, VAC5_B1-3, VAC5_C1-3).
- VAC8 (question asking about receiving a COVID-19 diagnosis) has been replaced by two new items (VAC8_B and VAC8_C)
- SPN5 (recent spending and activities)
- HLTH5 (took prescription medications to help with mental health)
- HLTH6 (received counseling or therapy from a mental health professional)
- HLTH7 (needed counseling or therapy from a mental health professional, but did not get it)
- HLTH13 (preventive healthcare check-ups for children)
- HSE5 (confidence in being able to pay next rent or mortgage payment on time)

Release Note on Updated Phase 3.5 Table Specifications

Data users can find the most updated table specifications on the main [Technical Documentation](#) webpage. Changes to the tables include:

Education Table 5

- New column added to account for updated response option, “Children were on summer break,” to question about how children received education (K12ED1).

Food Tables 1, 2, and 5

- Content related to housing payment confidence have been removed from these tables since that question (HSE5) is no longer included in the survey.

Health Table 1b

- Content based on deleted HLTH13 has been removed from this table.

Health Table 4

- Content based on deleted HLTH5, HLTH6, and HLTH7 has been removed from this table.
- Table now includes content from new question about physical and mental health of children (HLTH14)

Health Table 5a

- This table was updated to reflect updates to both question wording and response options for VAC2.

Health Table 5b

- Estimates based on the updated vaccination booster question (VAC2_BOOSTER) have been moved to this table (previous question about boosters was in Health Table 8).
- Estimates from the new question about reasons for not getting a booster vaccine (VAC4_B) have been added to this table.

Health Table 6a

- Estimates from the deleted question about reasons for not receiving a COVID-19 vaccination (VAC4) have been removed. Health6a is now home to content from VAC5_A, which asks whether any children have been vaccinated, and VAC6, which continues asking about vaccination intent for children.

Health Table 7a

- This table contains content from the new questions about whether children ages 5 to 11 are fully vaccinated (VAC5_B2) and whether they have received booster shots (VAC5_C2).
- Note: The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) recently authorized COVID-19 booster shots for children between 5 and 11 years old. Due to the recency of that decision, VAC5C_2 was not active for week 46. Therefore, the value of this variable for each record in the PUF is set to missing. This will impact “Health Table 7a. COVID–19 Full Vaccination Status for Children Ages 5–11, by Select Characteristics.” Columns E:G do not have data as a result. The HPS will begin collecting data for item VAC5C_2 in week 47.

Health Table 7b

- This table contains content from the new questions about whether children ages 12 to 17 are fully vaccinated (VAC5_B3) and whether they have received booster shots (VAC5_C3).

Health Table 8

- Content from the previous question asking about receiving a COVID-19 diagnosis (VAC8) has been replaced with new content asking about testing positive or receiving a diagnosis (VAC8_B) and the timing of that diagnosis (VAC8_C). VAC8_B is also now included in the stubs of a number of additional health tables.
- Table includes outcomes from new question about COVID-19 symptoms (PASC1).

Health Table 9

- Content for previous version of this table has been replaced with responses to a new question asking about COVID-19 treatments (TREAT1_A).

Health Table 10

- This is a new table sourcing content from new question about reasons for not receiving COVID-19 treatments (TREAT2_A).

Health Table 11

- This is a new table that includes outcomes from new questions asking about COVID-19 symptoms lasting longer than 3 months (PASC2) and whether respondents have current symptoms (PASC3)

Housing Table 2

- This is a new table that uses the new question about housing rental amount changes.

Housing Tables 2a and 2b

- As a result of removing the question about housing payment confidence from the survey (HSE5), these two tables have been removed.

Spending Table 2

- This table has removed content from deleted question about recent spending and activities (SPN5).
- This table has been updated to reflect changes to the question about household members teleworking (SPN5_DAYSTW).

Tables Using New Disability Questions

- The two new questions asking about disabilities (DIS5 and DIS6) have been added to most of the existing table stubs (exceptions include Education Table 4 and Employment Table 3).

Release Note on Updated Phase 3.5 Interactive Data Tool

Based on changes to the questionnaire, the HPS Interactive Data Tool has added one new indicator and removed two previous measures.

New Indicator:

Percentage of adults who had COVID-19 who reported symptoms lasting longer than 3 months. This measure uses the new question about symptoms lasting longer than 3 months (PASC2), which is asked of respondents who previously had COVID-19 (VAC8_B).

Removed Indicators:

Percentage of adults in households where someone worked onsite at a workplace in the last 7 days. This measure used a question that is no longer included on the survey (SPN5) and has therefore been removed.

Percentage of adults who are not current on rent or mortgage payments and who have slight or no confidence that their household can pay next month's rent or mortgage on time. This measure also relied on a question that has been removed from the survey (HSE5) and will therefore no longer be produced.

Release Note on Updated Table Link

In previous versions of the Source and Accuracy statements, available on the [Household Pulse Survey Technical Documentation webpage](#), the link in footnote #3 directing data users to data.census.gov table B15001 is incorrect. This table, which shows [Sex by Age by Educational Attainment](#), has been corrected in the latest version and will be correct in future versions.

Current correct B15001 link:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=b15001&tid=ACSDT5Y2020.B15001>

Previous incorrect B15001 link:

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=B15001&g=0100000US%2404000%24001&tid=ACSDT1Y2019.B15001&hidePreview=true>